

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05106 290641Z  
ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 PM-05 DODE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /038 W  
-----082941 300841Z /10  
R 290503Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667  
INFO GODDARD SPACE FLT CENTER  
AMCONSUL PERTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5106

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TSPA, AS  
SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NASA TEMPORARY  
MOBILE SATELLITE LASER TRACKING FACILITY

REF: STATE 126855, (B) STATE 052497, (C) CANBERRA 0597

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ON JUNE 27, 1978 AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RESPONDED IN THE USUAL MANNER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 24  
OF MARCH 3, 1978, THUS COMPLETING THE PROCESS OF AND EXCHANGE OF  
NOTES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NASA TEMPORARY MOBILE LASER  
TRACKING UNIT. EMBASSY WILL TRANSMIT BY AIRGRAM THE ORIGINAL  
OF THE DFA NOTE AND A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE.

END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. COMMENT: THE LONG DELAY IN DFA'S REPLY TO THE EMBASSY'S  
NOTE OF MARCH 3 WAS CAUSED BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS WHICH  
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE  
TO WHICH ALL (OR ALMOST ALL) WERE AGREED FROM THE OUTSET:  
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1. IN THE FIRST PLACE THERE WAS THE SLOW AND A GOOD DEAL  
LESS THAN ADROIT HANDLING OF THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF  
FINAL GOA CLEARANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE;  
2. SECONDLY, RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN DFA WAS TRANSFERRED  
FROM THE DEFENSE DIVISION, TO THE OFFICE OF THE ADVISOR  
ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THEN  
BACK TO THE DEFENSE DIVISION; 3. FINALLY, AND MOST

IMPORTANTLY, THE ENTIRELY INNOCENT MOBILE LASER PROJECT WAS A VICTIM OF THE CURRENT GUN SHY ATTITUDE OF THE GOA AS A RESULT OF LAST MONTH'S NORTHWEST CAP FLAP. AS IT, LIKE THE SEASAT GROUND STATION WILL BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH SEASAT, CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOA WERE AFRAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE UNSPECIFIED CLASSIFIED USES INTENDED FOR THE MOBILE LASER STATION. IT TOOK THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE SOME TIME TO OVERCOME THESE FEARS.  
SQUIRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SATELLITES, LASERS, TRACKING STATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CANBER05106  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** TSPA, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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